

Claims

1-27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) ~~A method~~The method of claim 47, further comprising:

~~operating a transistor device in a common base or common gate configuration;~~

~~coupling two or more input signal pathways to a first terminal of the transistor device, wherein one of the input signal pathways is from a current source with a lowpass filter, the filter comprising active and passive components;~~

~~providing a virtual ground at the first terminal of the transistor device through a current path to the virtual ground, wherein the path is continuously uninterrupted at all frequencies; and~~

~~providing an output from a second terminal of the transistor device to~~coupling a current-dependent load to one of the outputs, wherein one of the input signal pathways is from a current source with a lowpass filter, the filter comprising active and passive components.

29. (cancelled)

30. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 28~~47, further comprising:

controlling the transistor device with a servo device;

~~providing the a virtual ground at the first terminal of the transistor device~~through a servo device terminal; and

providing feedback to the servo device from the first terminal of the transistor device.

31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein the servo device includes an operational

amplifier having a negative input and a positive input, and further comprising:

receiving the feedback through the negative input; and

coupling the positive input to ground.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 47, wherein the first terminal corresponds to an emitter ~~emitter~~, and the ~~second~~ third terminal corresponds to a collector, ~~and the transistor device further includes a base, and which further includes~~ the method further including coupling a different transistor device to the base, the different transistor device including a ground-coupled emitter.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 47, wherein the ~~current dependent~~ load includes a laser device, and which further includes providing a control voltage to a first one of the input signal pathways and a sweep voltage to a second one of the input signal pathways.

34. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 47, wherein the ~~current dependent~~ load includes a laser device and wherein one of the two or more input signal pathways ~~the current source~~ is from a first current source, the method further comprising:

supplying an approximately constant bias current to the transistor device from the first current source; and

providing electrical current to the laser device from a second current source.

35. (currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a transistor device including a first terminal that is an emitter, a second terminal that is a base, and a third terminal that is a collector, said transistor device being in a common base configuration

arranged to maintain said emitter at a predefined voltage;

~~a virtual ground coupled to said emitter, wherein the virtual ground is provided by a path that is uninterrupted for all frequencies, at which the transistor is operational;~~

~~a number of two or more input signal pathways coupled to said first terminal emitter; and~~

~~a lowpass filter coupled to the second or base terminal of the transistor device; and~~

~~a current source coupled to said collector, said current source comprising at least one active component and being responsive to a signal input with one of said input signal pathways.~~

an AC output and a DC output from the third terminal of the transistor device for connection to a load, the AC output being a separate output from the DC output.

36. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein ~~said current source~~ one of the AC output and the DC output is coupled to a laser diode.

37. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein ~~said current source~~ one of the AC output and the DC output is coupled to a quantum cascade laser configuration.

38. (original) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising an operational amplifier to control said transistor device, said operational amplifier including a negative input coupled to receive feedback from said emitter, a positive input coupled to ground, and an output configured to drive said base.

39. (original) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a different transistor device coupled to said base, said different transistor device including an emitter coupled to ground.

40. (original) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a control signal generator coupled to one of said inputs.

41. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 35, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising a current source coupled to the emitter. is a first current source, the apparatus further comprising a second current source, said input signal pathways being coupled to a first electrical node positioned between said emitter and said second current source.

42. (currently amended) ~~A method,~~ The method of claim 47, further comprising:
~~operating a transistor device in a common base or common gate configuration to provide~~ providing a virtual ground at a first terminal of the transistor device, wherein the virtual ground is provided by a servo device terminal, and wherein no reactive components are positioned between the first terminal of the transistor device and the servo device terminal;

~~providing a number of input signal pathways coupled to the first terminal of the transistor device,~~ wherein one of the input signal pathways is from a current source with a lowpass filter, the filter comprising active and passive components;

electrically coupling a laser device to ~~a second~~ the third terminal of the transistor device through one of the AC output and the DC output; and

controlling operation of the laser device with an input signal provided to the first terminal of the transistor device.

43. (cancelled)

44. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~42~~ 47, wherein said operating includes controlling operation of the transistor device with a servo device, the servo device receiving feedback from the first terminal.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the current source is a first current source, the method further comprising:
supplying an approximately constant bias current to the transistor device from the first current source; and
providing electrical current to the laser device from a second current source.

46. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~42~~ 47, wherein said operating includes regulating operation of the transistor device with a different transistor device having an emitter coupled to ground, the transistor device and the different transistor device having a base connection in common.

47. (previously presented) A method, comprising:
operating a transistor device with first, second and third terminals in a common base or common gate configuration;
coupling two or more input signal pathways to a first terminal of the transistor device;
coupling a lowpass filter to a second or base terminal of the transistor device; and
providing an AC output and a DC output from a third terminal of the transistor device for connection to a load, the AC output being a separate output from the DC output.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the transistor device is a first transistor device, wherein the first terminal corresponds to an emitter and the third terminal corresponds to a collector, the method further comprising coupling a second transistor device to the base, the second transistor device comprising a ground-coupled emitter.

49. (cancelled)

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein one of the input signal pathways comprises a photodiode.